



# BRACELIN'S BITS

Serving Others to See Deaf Saved and Serving

## WHAT'S IN BRACELIN'S BITS?

### Where We've Been/Going

What have the Bracelin's been doing? What are they planning to do? This is designed to help you pray specifically for us [pg. 2].

### Funny Deaf Story

I like to share a story or two from our experience of working with the Deaf. Ministry is not all work. There are some great and funny stories that have happened along the way.

I am constantly reminded of the differences between the Deaf World and the Hearing World. There is a great deal of humor when those differences appear [pg. 2].

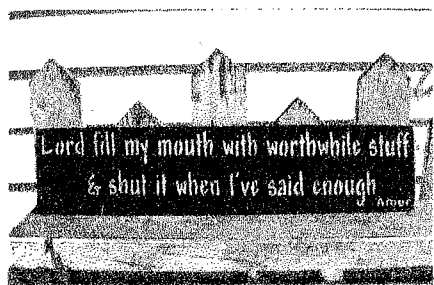
### Wisdom from Ted Camp

Our Director, Dr. Ted Camp sends a weekly article he calls, "Words of Wisdom." We include some of these thoughts of that have touched our hearts with you. If you are interested in receiving these in your email, you can let us know and we will have him add you to his email list [pg. 3].

## From My Desk to Yours

There is something that feels really good as I flip my calendar from one month to the next. It reminds me that time is passing far too quickly at times. It also reminds me that I cannot put life in reverse to go back and do things left undone, or to re-do things that I did not do as well as I would have liked. Time is an incredible gift of God. Making good use of the time God has given us is our gift back to Him. I want to be sure that I am laying up treasures in Heaven that will be like gold, silver, and precious stones, as opposed to being wood, hay, or stubble. This past year has been a challenging year for all of us. It has also been an opportunity for tremendous growth. A wise professor of mine in Bible college used the example of the sun shining on a stream. He mentioned that the clay on the bank was hardened by the sun, while the clay just under the water was softened by the warmth of the sun. His point was simple. God allows the events to take place in each of our lives. Our response to those things will determine whether we are hardened, or softened. I always want my heart to be softened to the things God is teaching me. I want my life to eagerly receive the lessons God is trying to teach me. I want to keep the main thing the main thing, regardless of how the events of life unfold for me. This past year has allowed me to examine my own heart, and my own responses to the challenges that have come my way. As some of you know, my father stepped into Heaven in September of this past year. While that was difficult, I choose to thank God for the reality of Heaven, and sins forgiven through the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of Christ! The main thing is that I know Jesus sacrifice was sufficient. We have all faced the challenges of Covid-19, and the virus. It has greatly altered the way we look at the word, "normal." The restrictions placed on us has greatly changed our ministry approach. Through it all, God has been faithful to His work, and He has blessed in ways we could not have imagined! This cannot happen if we allow the things that are not the "main thing" to become the "main things" to us. As I sit here at my desk today, I want to encourage you to remember that, *"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him"* (Psalm 18:30). Keep the Word of God and it's truths as the "main thing" in your thinking, and it will carry you through even the most difficult of times. What will 2021 bring to us? I don't know, but I do know that my Heavenly Father is already there preparing the way for His children! Stay focused on Him and His Word!

Keep the main thing ... the main thing!



### Funny Deaf Story

We were flying from Philadelphia to Nova Scotia, Canada for Deaf revival meetings. Allen Snare, one of our Deaf SWM missionaries was flying with us. Allen loves to drink bottled water. When he travels, he has an entire case in his trunk, and makes sure he always has one with him. On this occasion, he had to purchase a bottled water inside the airport before we boarded the plane. The plane was not a large plane, and we were not able to sit with all three of us in the same section. The seats were just two, side-by-side. Because of that, Terry and I were seated in the seats to the left of the aisle, and Allen was seated catty corner to us on the aisle seat on the right side of the aisle. We were preparing to take off when I noticed the man in front of Allen looking agitated. I began to watch him a bit, and realized that he kept looking behind him at Allen. I looked to make sure Allen was not bumping the seat with his knees, or pushing on the seat or something. It turned out that Allen had finished a bottle of water and was squeezing the bottle. It was making a loud noise. I quickly told Allen that squeezing his bottle was making noise and bothering the man in front of him. He looked at me and signed, "Really?" We both laughed ... and he put his bottle in the pocket behind the seat! It reminded me again that there are many things that Deaf people have no idea make a noise ... like an empty plastic bottle!

[The rest of last month's story!]

### WHERE WE HAVE BEEN ... WHERE WE ARE GOING

*"For a great door and effectual is opened ..."* 1 Corinthians 16:9

While our travel has been drastically cut down, we are thankful for the meetings God has given us. Here is our report for September and October:

#### What God has done:

- **November 1, 15, 29** - We had the honor of helping one of our supporting churches in Connecticut while they went through the process of selecting a new Pastor. Tri-State Baptist Church has been a faithful supporting church of ours for many years. Their Pastor retired recently, but had asked if I would help them during the transition. We were honored to preach there five different Sundays, and Terry interpreted for their Deaf. We praise the Lord that they had a new Pastor come and candidate while we were there. They voted on him and his family, and they approved him! He will begin in January of 2021! We did see one young girl trust Christ via the livestream ministry while we were there! God is still in the saving business!

- **November 7** - We held a Fantastic Saturday at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Gloucester City, NJ. This is our oldest meeting in our region. We were thrilled to be able to hold this meeting in spite of the restrictions in the northeast. We had a much smaller group attend than have had in the past, but the spirit was wonderful and the fellowship was as it has always been! Praise the Lord!

- **December** - We spent the month of December interpreting from our home studio for our home church, Valley Forge Baptist. We also helped with the interpreting for one week for Greater Rhode Island Baptist from our home studio. We are thankful for the technology and time to help with these ministries!

- Jim continues to teach, film, and post Bible studies for the Deaf every week!

#### Where we are going:

- **January 22** - Jim has been asked to preach in chapel at Apalachin Bible College in Mt. Hope, W.VA. Lord willing, we will be traveling there for this precious opportunity.

- **January 31** - Jim has been asked to take part in an ordination service for two young men in our home church.

- **February 13-17** - We plan to travel to Georgia for our Annual Silent Word Board meeting followed by our Executive Operating Board meeting. Please pray for safety and wisdom during this time.

### Terry's Thoughts



As our children and grandchildren were leaving to return home after Christmas, they were talking about when we would see each other again. They immediately asked; "Whose birthday is next?" It will be Carson's birthday in January. They all cheered, knowing that it would be less than one month until we would be together again. Yes, they enjoy getting gifts, and being spoiled, but I believe they just enjoy spending time with each other. Our two teenage girls go off together and ride bikes. The next youngest girls go off and giggle and do crafts. There are five boys, and our youngest granddaughter, Layla. She loves running with the boys and trying to do all the things they are doing. Amari is only two-and-a-half, but he runs and plays with the others. It thrills my heart to see them enjoying each other. On Jesus' birthday, some of our grandchildren asked;

*"Why do you give us gifts, if it is Jesus' birthday?"* We give gifts because Jesus loves us so much that He gave us the greatest gift of all ... Himself! He came as a baby, grew up, showed us how to live right and then He died for all the things we do wrong ... because He loves us so much. We give gifts to those we love. All through the year, we check to see whose birthday is next, and where it will be that we gather together. Thank you Jesus for showing us and giving us the greatest love story of all. Thank you for showing us how to share this love with others.

### Words of Wisdom from Ted Camp

At times life can be like a daze in a maze. When you are in a daze in a maze, you helplessly gaze here and there and to and fro. You feel like "Waldo" and no one can find you and you cannot find them. It seems you often run into a dead end. You go left when you should go right and go right when you should go left. You are lost and say as cartoon Pogo, "Everywhere I go, there I am." But where am I? You yell to no avail. You yelp - no help. You feel gone and alone. You become confused and at times amused. As Alice in the maze of Wonderland asked the Cheshire Cat, "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" The Cheshire Cat said, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." Alice said, "I don't much care where." The Cat



replied, "Then it doesn't much matter which way you go." Are you in a daze in a maze? Learn a lesson from Job that there is time to stop trying and start trusting. Job never knew why, but he learned Who. He finally said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). Stop looking horizontally - look vertically: That's right, look up! "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD" (Psalm 121:1-2). When you are in a daze in a maze don't forget to look up. He is "there" and He knows the way out. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10). Look up! He directs both your steps (Psalms 37:23) and stops (Acts 16:26). He says, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21). Look up! Much could be avoided, if you had only looked up earlier. When Israel left Egypt, they faced the Red Sea before them and Egyptian soldiers behind them. There was no way out! They forgot to look up. Thankfully, God looked down and did for them what they could not do for themselves. Remember, what is over your head is under His feet (Psalm 8:6). Look up! Stop trying - start trusting. Look up! Pray, "Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD" (Psalm 70:1). So don't forget to look up when you are in a daze in a maze!

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:** Please pray especially for us in the days ahead for wisdom for our upcoming schedule for 2021. We normally travel a good bit, but with the uncertainty in our country right now, we are not sure about scheduling many meetings. Please pray that the Lord will give us godly leadership for these meetings.

Also, please pray with us about new outreach through social media outlets. God has provided good, godly counsel from some young men who are far more experienced than we are to help guide us in this new endeavor. We yearn to see unsaved Deaf reached with the Gospel. Social Media is the one avenue we have at this time to safely reach these precious unsaved Deaf. We need wisdom from God, and clear leadership from the Holy Spirit for this to be successful.

As always, we greatly appreciate, and need your prayers! Thank you for standing with us during these changing times!

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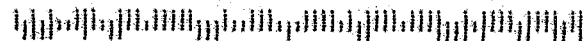
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# **Silent Word** **Ministries**

**Specializing in Deaf Ministry**

***"Into the Silent World ... With the Silent Word"***  
***— Since 1966***

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We thank God for the opportunity to  
help your Deaf ministry in any way.

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## **Helpful Silent Word Links Designed for Deaf and Deaf Workers**

- On-line Catalog – <http://catalog.silentwordministries.org/>
- Silent Word Newspaper – <http://newspaper.silentwordministries.org/>
- Deaf Bible Institute – <http://deafbibleinstitute.org/>
- Jim Bracelin website – [www.jimbracelin.com](http://www.jimbracelin.com)
- Sign the Bible – <http://signthebible.silentwordministries.org/>
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